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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Berlin)

DATE DISTR. 14 May 1951

SUBJECT Unlikelihood of New Blockade

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The reimposition of the blockade in the near future is considered unlikely in view of the strong political moves, of Communist inspiration, against West German remilitarization and on other east-west issues. A blockade of Berlin would interfere with the political aims of these drives, and would discredit the Communist campaign for West German support against the western Allies.
2. At the same time, a blockade would discredit the "peace" drive in East Germany and throughout the eastern orbit, and would jeopardize the full success of the coming world youth festival since the resumption of the air lift would be an impressive demonstration of western capabilities to those attending the festival. A blockade would also certainly open the way for all kinds of propaganda methods and the use of propaganda issues which are being avoided at present for fear of Soviet reprisal.
3. It is believed that western restrictions imposed on east-west trade are not extensive enough now to warrant giving up Berlin as a main transshipment point.
4. Thus the blockade is not likely for the time being. Only after the current political wooing of West Germany, which is perhaps having some success in delaying remilitarization, has outlived its usefulness, and after trade restrictions make Berlin no longer of value as a transshipment point, will the Russians consider the possibility of a new blockade. Such conditions are regarded as unlikely to prevail before the end of 1951.

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